614 just like a woman chieftain, is due to the strength of her par-
622 ents' family. Since her elder brother, Li-ch'ü Ta-chi, has been traveling frequently to Wu-chio to help manage her affairs, no one dares to challenge her power in the village. This, of course, is not a permanent solution, and Li-ch'ü shih [23] herself is well aware of it. She has confided to the author that it was unfortunate that she did not produce a male heir. She is
[589 not yet thirty-one and according to Lolo custom could very well
177] remarry, but she repeatedly announced that she would remain a widow all her life in observance of Chinese tradition. As Wu-chio is an area in which Chinese and Lolo cultures intermingle, the development of this community depends entirely upon the relationship between the two groups.

621 The cohesive force in the clan village becomes strong
614 if there is a recognized leader supported by all the people.
721 Whenever something occurs, once the leader has issued a summons, all the male adults of the village immediately assemble to take orders from him, either to undertake an expedition to fight in a clan feud or to station themselves in front of the village to protect the clan members from enemy invasion. Since the Lolo at Ma-liu Wan had made enemies of the soldiers stationed at Lei-po, anytime they heard of a movement of the soldiers, Ta-i would gather together several dozen men to lay in ambush at the slope in front of Shan-wang Miao so as to deal the government soldiers a severe blow when they passed Chin-chu Tsui at the foot of the slope. Armed clashes between government troops and Lolo people have occurred frequently. After the incident of Hu Ch'ang-pao's death, Wu-ch'i Ku-pao made several surprise attacks on the village of Wu-chio, killing, plundering, and seizing animals. As head of the village, Li-ch'ü shih, although a woman, would personally direct her steward, Ts'ai Pao-chang, to assemble the village people to resist the enemy. At that time, Chinese soldiers were still stationed in Wu-chio, and since Li-ch'ü shih was the chief of the village ward, appointed by the government, the soldiers also undertook to help her in the defense. Therefore the main factor maintaining the clan village as a unit is the union of the clan members, whose combined strength would enable them to protect the villagers' life and property and also to gain lasting independence for the village.

564 A clan leader should always demonstrate a courageous
156 spirit and place himself at the front of a combat, thereby win-
703 ning the respect and obedience of the people. This is not only
554 true of the leader, but also of all the black Lolo in the clan. They, too, should be brave enough to lead the white Lolo slaves

564 in an expedition. Therefore the black Lolo take the attitude
156 that to be killed in battle is a special honor, while the white
703 Lolo are accustomed to following the black Lolo, always taking
554 orders from them and placing themselves in a subordinate position. When Li-ch'ü Ta-chi led our inspection team out of the mountains on our way back to Lei-po, we passed Wei-kan-tien, a high slope covered with brambles and undergrowth. A strong wind and heavy rain came in succession, and we could hardly find our path in the midst of the wild grass. All of us were oppressed by the whipping rain and the numbing cold and were also in fear of some lurking tiger, leopard, snake, or scorpion. None dared to go forward but Ta-chi. Very bravely he led the team to beat a path through the wild grass. This kind of courage and determination makes the author think highly of him.

156 Bravery, however, is only one phase of Lolo leader-
554 ship; mere bravery is not enough [24] to keep one in the posi-
622 tion. For example, Li-ch'ü Pieh-t'u had a nephew [blood
614 brother's son] who is now twenty-five years old, the same age as Ta-i. A well-known fighter in Ma-liu Wan, he is said to always place himself in the front of every battle; he is also known as a deadly marksman, never missing the target whenever he shoots. But though brave, he is stupid, careless, and rude, so no one respects him. Because of this, Ta-i, though a distant relative, came to succeed Pieh-t'u after his death as the leader in Ma-liu Wan. Li-ch'ü Ta-chi is also a leader who is both wise and brave. In managing his sister's affairs
[648] in Wu-chio, he knows how to use political expediency to make friends with all the Lolo branches in the area and also to associate closely with the Han-Chinese, thus gaining the confidence of Chinese officials in charge of Lolo affairs in Lei-po city. In recent years, whenever something happens between the Han-Chinese and Lolo, Ta-chi always plays the role of a
[115] go-between. Therefore he was recommended to the author as the chief headman-protector for this trip to Liang Shan. After entering the mountains we went from Ma-ching-tzu westward to Ting-chia P'ing. During this journey, Ta-chi secretly asked his maternal elder cousin [mother's elder brother's son], A-cho Chê-chio, to escort the team with the slaves while he and his clan nephew [i. e., son of a member of his generation in the clan], Lao-mu, took a roundabout way to wait for us at Cho-chiao-na-ta. At that time the author wondered why Ta-chi had to disappear in the middle of the journey, and it was only afterwards that we learned that the region between Ma-ching-tzu